

Final Recommendation
June 8, 2000

Recommendation of the Action Plan Team: CORE Mission

State of Issue #14: There is a need to enhance the collection of comprehensive data to support USFA and partner/customer analysis and policy decisions.

Recommendation #: R-65

<u>Summary:</u>	R-65 “Identify and assess target audiences and determine how best to reach them.”
<u>Recommendation:</u>	Secure and dedicate requisite USFA resources to spatial (area based) analysis of NFIRS data. Incorporate findings into USFA publications, position statements and policy analysis.
<u>Background:</u>	Although the NFIRS dataset is the most detailed representation of the fire situation in the U.S., it is not able to provide a meaningful picture of the fire problem below the national level. Thus, it is difficult to describe the fire situation as it pertains to a specific group or area. This new project is being undertaken in the National Fire Data Center using the following steps.
<u>Priority:</u>	High
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Step(s) to Achieve: Geocode incident records using existing and future NFIRS data. Attempt to resolve failures by exploiting useful associations, such as reporting department, zip code, etc.2. Group data and compute estimates as indicated by issue at hand.3. Findings will be used by project planners within USFA to identify and assess target audiences and determine how best to reach them for efforts ranging from public education to targeted course deliveries, to justification for fundings efforts at local, state and federal levels. Data partners will use the geocoded data to facilitate their analyses.
<u>Estimated Time Frame:</u>	Ongoing. Preliminary results in approx. 6 months
<u>Estimated Cost:</u>	\$200,000.00 per year (contract staff, hardware, software, and data) plus staff time.

Outcome: This would transform the NFIRS dataset from a large, collection of data to a well defined analytical tool. Fire data analysts will be able to use the NFIRS dataset to present a much more targeted, group or area specific picture of the fire situation. This will facilitate the integration of NFIRS with many other relevant public, private academic and non-profit datasets.

Conclusion: The process and approach of data-related USFA activities needs to be more aggressively undertaken from a bottom-up approach. Fire scene analysis, data collection, incident analysis, feedback, etc. conclusions/recommendations should be viewed from the reporting entity's point of view as well. Continued support by USFA will enhance the overall efforts of both FEMA and the Federal Fire Programs relating to the nation's mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery capabilities.

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